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**MBDA Awards Over \$7.2 million in Grants  
for 28 Minority Business Enterprise Centers**  
***Centers will aid in growing and expanding minority businesses in the U.S.***

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce today announced \$7.2 million in total funding for 28 Minority Business Enterprise Centers (MBECs) including four new centers located in major metropolitan areas around the United States.

MBDA increased its nationwide network of MBECs by investing over \$940,000 in annual spending in four new locations: Las Vegas, Nevada; St. Louis, Missouri; Indianapolis, Indiana; and New Orleans, Louisiana. The awards are annual awards for a maximum three-year period and include both new awards and continued funding of existing awards.

"We value the critical role these centers play in growing minority businesses that create jobs and improve their local economy. With minority-owned firms growing at a faster rate than non-minority firms, MBDA is able to extend its reach and impact through the local centers. They are vital partners," said Mr. Ronald N. Langston, MBDA National Director.

The MBEC program promotes the growth and expansion of minority-owned firms through business consultation, entrepreneurial technical assistance, and provides access to capital, and public and private contracting opportunities.

With the additional four new centers along with the four anticipated centers slated to be announced this Spring, minority entrepreneurs will have a total of 32 MBECs nationwide to help them grow and expand their businesses. Across the U.S. last year, MBDA served over 3,600 clients, which created over 4,200 jobs resulting into over \$921 million in total financing and procurement transactions.

Located throughout the United States, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, each center tailors its services to meet the needs of the local minority business community. Minority business owners who are interested in using the services of the MBECs can find the nearest location by calling 1-888-324-1551 or visiting [www.mbda.gov](http://www.mbda.gov) for an online directory of the MBECs and other business resources.

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The FY 2007 Minority Business Enterprise Center Grant Recipients are:

MBEC name	Location of MBEC	Geographic service area
Arizona MBEC.....	Phoenix, AZ.....	State of Arizona.
Inland Empire MBEC.....	Riverside, CA....	California Counties of: Orange, Riverside, Inland Empire, San Diego and San Bernardino.
Nevada MBEC.....	Las Vegas, NV....	State of Nevada.
Los Angeles MBEC.....	Los Angeles Metro	California Counties of: Los Angeles and Ventura.
Northern California MBEC....	San Jose, CA.....	California Counties of: Santa Clara, Alameda, San Francisco, San Mateo, San Benito, Monterey, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, Napa, Solano, Contra Costa, Mendocino, San Joaquin, Sacramento, and Marin.
Washington MBEC.....	Seattle, WA.....	State of Washington.
Dallas MBEC.....	Dallas, TX.....	Dallas/Fort Worth/ Arlington MSA.*
El Paso MBEC.....	El Paso, TX.....	El Paso MSA.*
Houston MBEC.....	Houston, TX.....	Houston/Sugar Land/ Baytown MSA.*
New Mexico MBEC.....	Albuquerque, NM..	State of New Mexico.
Louisiana MBEC.....	New Orleans, LA..	State of Louisiana.
San Antonio MBEC.....	San Antonio, TX..	San Antonio MSA.*
Georgia MBEC.....	Atlanta, GA.....	State of Georgia.
North Carolina MBEC.....	Durham, NC.....	State of North Carolina.
South Carolina MBEC.....	Columbia, SC.....	State of South Carolina.
Alabama/Mississippi MBEC....	Biloxi, MS.....	States of Alabama & Mississippi.
Chicago MBEC.....	Chicago, IL.....	State of Illinois.
Detroit MBEC.....	Detroit, MI.....	State of Michigan.
Cleveland MBEC.....	Cleveland, OH....	State of Ohio.
Indianapolis MBEC.....	Indianapolis, IN.	State of Indiana.
St. Louis MBEC.....	St. Louis, MO....	State of Missouri.
Manhattan MBEC.....	New York, NY.....	New York Counties of: New York, Bronx and Westchester.
Williamsburg MBEC.....	Brooklyn, NY.....	New York Counties of: Kings and Richmond.
Queens MBEC.....	Jamaica, NY.....	New York Counties of: Queens, Nassau and

Pennsylvania MBEC..... Philadelphia, PA.  
New Jersey MBEC..... Newark, NJ.....  
DC Metro MBEC..... Washington, DC...

Puerto Rico MBEC..... San Juan, PR.....

Suffolk.  
State of Pennsylvania.  
State of New Jersey.  
Washington, DC/  
Arlington/Alexandria  
MSA.\*  
Puerto Rico  
Islandwide.

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**About the Minority Business Development Agency, US Department of Commerce**

Founded in 1971 and headquartered in Washington, DC, the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce. MBDA is the only federal agency created specifically to foster the establishment and growth of minority-owned businesses in this Nation. The Agency actively promotes the strategic growth and competitiveness of minority business enterprises by offering management and technical assistance and access to contracting and financing opportunities through a network of forty local business centers throughout the United States.